

A Regal Gathering

8 Hampton Court was King Henry VIII's favourite palace
15 and it showcased his wealth and power.

18 — 21st June 1537

26 Stepping eagerly past the guard and into the
33 infamous Great Hall, we were instantly overcome
42 with the opulence and splendour of the room. My
50 fellow courtiers, all dressed in their finest attire,
57 were mingling and conversing with one another
65 - their voices competing with the sound of the
72 music. The walls were adorned with beautiful,
79 intricate tapestries of the brightest colours and
87 the ceiling was beautifully carved in the finest
99 timber. At the far end of the room, I could see His
107 Royal Highness seated on his raised dais laughing,
116 nodding to the sounds of the music and enjoying
123 the magnificent feast laid out before him.



Questions



1. What is the purpose of the first sentence?



2. Why do you think there would be a guard on the door of the Great Hall?



3. Find a phrase which describes what other people were doing inside the Great Hall.



4. Which word means 'a raised area used for ceremonial purposes'?

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Answers



1. What is the purpose of the first sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The first sentence gives the reader information about Hampton Court Palace.



2. Why do you think there would be a guard on the door of the Great Hall?

Pupils' own responses, such as: There would be a guard to protect the King and to ensure that only invited guests enter the Great Hall.



3. Find a phrase which describes what other people were doing inside the Great Hall.

mingling and conversing with one another



4. Which word means 'a raised area used for ceremonial purposes'?

dais